



## **Newsletter** Issue 2

### **Care to Learn Celebrates 5 Year Anniversary**

Five years ago, Pink was on the top of the billboard charts with "So What," *The Bucket List* grossed more than \$19 million at the box office and Bigfoot was sighted in northern Georgia. At that same time in Springfield, Missouri, Care to Learn was founded.

Five years later, Pink is still searching for the answer, Bigfoot has a cable reality series and Care to Learn has provided assistance to students more than 150,000 times. This is remarkable in that during a period of financial uncertainty, Care to Learn has grown to serving ten communities. Our unique business model and support of generous donors have allowed us to meet the emergent needs of students in the areas of health, hunger, and hygiene. From the student in Springfield whose shoes are two sizes too small to the hungry child in Fordland and the homeless high school student in Nixa, Care to Learn has provided immediate, confidential solutions that keep children in school and restores their self-esteem and self-worth.

As we contemplate the next five years, Care to Learn is dedicated to sustainable growth and securing funding that will meet the needs of our students. Please consider what you can do to help. A three-year pledge form is included in this newsletter. Every penny will be used to provide assistance to vulnerable students. "So What" is stopping you?

## Bolivar

In Bolivar, a high school student who had received Care to Learn assistance for food was selling magazines to raise money so he could go on the Senior trip to Washington, D.C. He had raised all his money, then abruptly announced he wasn't going. We discovered that he had received the list of "mandatory" clothing items, and he had none of them. Thanks to Care to Learn, we were able to quickly purchase the few items he needed to go on the trip. He called D.C. the most amazing place he had ever been in his life, and that it was the first time he had felt like "one of the guys."

## Fordland

Fordland had a special needs child who could only wear Velcro shoes, but it was very difficult to find them in the correct size. Care to Learn was able to purchase a brand new pair of shoes for the child. The child's teacher said they have never seen a bigger smile, and that the child's attitude completely changed.

## Clever

On a Friday in Clever, a volunteer was distributing backpacks that were full of food for the weekend. A little girl came running in, with a huge smile on her face. She said, "Thank you. I will never forget this. Thank you for filling this backpack each week; we really need this food at our house." Reactions of joy like this student remind each of us why Care to Learn is so important.

## Nixa

In Nixa, like communities across the country, homeless students struggle to make it on their own. Recently, a homeless student who was staying at a friend's house stated that the only food he had was from the weekend backpacks that Care to Learn provided him.

## Logan-Rogersville

Because the Logan-Rogersville faculty and staff realize how much Care to Learn is helping the students, each month we have a "Care to Wear Day." On this day, we are allowed to wear jeans if we make a \$1 donation to Care to Learn.



### Save the Date

Drury Panther Run

October 5, 2013

15K, 10K and 5K

The area's premier Prize event with over \$20,000 in prizes and awards. Early Bird registration is September 1.

[www.caretolearnfund.org](http://www.caretolearnfund.org)



**Doug Pitt**  
Founder, Care to Learn



Five years ago on April 6, 2008, Care to Learn helped the first student. Had I known at the time how many needs existed and how much time and money it would take to meet those needs, I do not think I would have founded Care to Learn. I am glad I didn't know.

With this second newsletter, we celebrate our fifth anniversary and acknowledge 150,000 needs met and ten Care to Learn chapters -- Bolivar, Clever, Fordland, Logan-Rogersville, Nixa, Ozark, Republic, Springfield, Willard and OTC. In each Care to Learn chapter, volunteers are raising money and school district personnel are identifying student needs in the areas of health, hunger, and hygiene. I am pleased to report that because of our efforts, school attendance is increasing, grades are improving, and dropouts are declining.

We are fortunate in southwest Missouri to have dedicated school professionals and generous donors who have embraced the mission of Care to Learn. But, the need continues to grow. Please consider a three-year pledge to Care to Learn, and share this newsletter with someone who may be able to help, also. You will be recycling with a purpose.

**Donor Advisors:** Bobby Allison;  
Jim Anderson; Jerry Harmison; Matt Miller;  
Stephanie Stenger Montgomery; Doug Pitt; Jack Staek;  
and John Wanamaker

**Staff:** Morey Mechlin; Crystal Quade; and Heather Trinca

Community Foundation of the Ozarks  
PO Box 8960  
Springfield, MO 65801



[www.caretolearnfund.org](http://www.caretolearnfund.org)

411 N. Sherman Parkway  
Springfield, MO 65802  
417.862.7771

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage PAID  
Springfield, MO  
Permit #680



Care to Learn  
411 North Sherman Parkway  
Springfield, MO 65802  
417-862-7771  
[www.caretolearnfund.org](http://www.caretolearnfund.org)  
Doug Pitt, Founder  
Morey Mechlin, Exec Director



**I CARE! And want to make a 3-year pledge to Care to Learn!**

- Bolivar  Clever  Fordland  Logan-Rogersville  Nixa  Ozark  
 Republic  Springfield  Willard  Ozarks Technical Community College

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

I will contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_ every year for three years.

Please send pledge reminders to me in \_\_\_\_\_ (month).

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

## "DARE TO CARE" REUNION CONCERT BENEFITS CARE TO LEARN

It doesn't take a "Time Warp" to remember when you first heard the music of the Ozark Mountain Daredevils. "If You Wanna Get to Heaven" and "Jackie Blue" are staples in any good music collection. Their success in the 70's also included "It'll Shine When It Shines," "The Car Over The Lake Album," "Men from Earth,"



" Don't Look Down," and "It's Alive." They reactivated in the late 1980's and in 1997, the group recorded and released their first album in many years titled "13." After 35 years of service to their craft, the music and the group have withstood the test of time and enjoy a cult popularity.

But the Daredevils are about more than their music. They are also about compassion and generosity, and that is why they have chosen to do a reunion concert on Saturday, April 6 to benefit Care to Learn. Steve Cash (harmonica, percussion), John Dillon (guitars, mouth bow, fiddle), Michael "Supe" Granda (bass), Ron Gemp (drums), Dave Painter (lead guitar), Kelly Brown (keys), Bill Jones (saxes and flute), Ruell Chappel (percussion) and Nick Sibley (guitar, mandolin) will reunite at the Gillioz Theatre for one show only.

Producer Dwight Glenn introduced the Daredevils to Care to Learn over a year ago, and their only question was, "What can we do to help?" Their concert on April 6 is the perfect answer to that question.

### First Impressions

Printing ♦ Graphic Design

First Impressions was one of the first businesses to offer support to Care to Learn five years ago. First Impressions has been providing southwest Missouri with printing and copying services since 1976. President Danny Correll attributes the success and longevity of his business to the many long-term employees who are dedicated to customer service and high quality work. "We try to treat each client as a friend and help find the most cost-effective solution for their project." Danny also credits the many advances in the graphics industry during their 37 years. Danny says that First Impressions has been privileged to work with many wonderful companies and organizations. Care to Learn thanks Danny and our friends at First Impressions. Care to Learn looks forward to working with them the next five years!



### Ozark

Ozark had a child from a very food insecure family. When he arrived at school, he would be explosively angry because he was very hungry. Thanks to Care to Learn, we are able to have food on hand and provide him a nutritional breakfast every morning. This student is now able to focus on his school work and not worry about being hungry.

### Springfield

Robberson Elementary in Springfield became Robberson Community School at the start of the 2012-13 school year. With 95% of the families on free and/or reduced lunch, this "holistic" approach to education provides additional support for student achievement and builds relationships with families. Care to Learn is providing "Breakfast in the Classroom" at Robberson as well as a food pantry where families can volunteer their time helping others and take home nutritional food that meets their needs.



Dear Care 2 Learn,  
Thank you for Shop with a Here. I was choose to shop. I really appreciate that you gave me \$100 to shop for my needs.  
Love,

### OTC

At OTC, some of the dual-enrollment students have difficulty with transportation to and from school. Care to Learn funds provide bus passes so that these students are able to come to class on time and ready to learn.

### Republic

In Republic, a child was having difficulty with her speech. She could not articulate well and the nasal tone of her voice interfered with the production of sound. This made her difficult to understand causing problems with school work and social settings. It was discovered she had a severe sinus blockage. Care to Learn purchased needed medications for the student. This has had a huge, positive impact on her school work and interaction with peers.

### Willard

In Willard, two brothers had to move in with an aunt while their parents were trying to find housing. The aunt went to the clothing bank to get clothes, but could not find shoes that fit. Care to Learn provided a voucher to purchase new shoes for the boys. The aunt reported that the youngest child just sat and smelled his new shoes because he had never had a pair of new shoes before.